

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus including hardware resources used for image formation, an application for performing processes on the image formation, and a platform that exists between the application and the hardware resources, the platform including an OS and at least one control service to control an execution of each requested processing of the hardware resources according to a function call from the application, wherein interprocess communication is performed between the control service and the application, and in which applications a new application that performs interprocess communication with the control service in the same way as the application can be installed in the image forming apparatus, the image forming apparatus[[,]] comprising:

an installed application storage part;

an application information obtaining part configured to obtain, from the new application, application information of the new application that includes information indicating whether [[an]] the new application is installable in the installed application storage part; and

a determination part configured to determine whether the new application is installable in the installed application storage part based on the application information.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the application information obtaining part is configured to obtain the application information that is included in an execution file of the application.

4. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application information obtaining part is configured to obtain the application information from a file separate from the application.

5. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein the application information obtaining part is configured to obtain the application information by provisionally launching the application.

6. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein the application information obtaining part is configured obtain the application information by using interprocess communication between the application information obtaining part and the application.

7. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 5, further comprising:

a processor;

wherein the application causes the processor to perform

a step of determining whether to provisionally launch the application or to normally launch the application according to a request from the application information obtaining part; and

a step of providing the application information to the application information obtaining part if the application is provisionally launched.

8. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

a storage configured to store the application information obtained by the application information obtaining part.

9. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the storage is at least one of a hard disk, a nonvolatile memory and a memory card, and

the application information obtaining part is configured to obtain the application information by reading information stored in the storage.

10. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the application information obtaining part is configured to obtain the application information that includes a product ID that is specific to the application.

11. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the application information obtaining part is configured to obtain the application information that further includes at least one of a vendor name, an application name, version information and resource information.

12. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 10, further comprising:

a storage configured to store product IDs of installable applications, and

wherein the determination part is configured to determine whether a target application is installable by checking whether a product ID of the target application is stored.

13. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

hardware resources for an image forming process;  
control services for controlling the hardware resources; and  
a virtual application service that operates as a client process for the control services and operates as a sever process for the application.

14. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein the virtual application service includes the application information obtaining part.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for installing applications in an image forming apparatus including hardware resources used for image formation, an application for performing processes on the image formation, and a platform that exists between the application and the hardware resources, the platform including an OS and at least one control service to control an execution of each requested processing of the hardware resources according to a function call from the application, wherein interprocess communication is performed between the control service and the application, and a new application that performs interprocess communication with the control service in the same way as the application can be installed in the image forming apparatus, the method comprising:

obtaining, from the new application, application information of the new application that includes information indicating whether [[an]] the new application is installable in the image forming apparatus; and

determining whether the new application is installable in the image forming apparatus based on the application information.

16. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the step of obtaining application information comprises obtaining the application information from the application.

17. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the step of obtaining application information comprises obtaining the application information that is included in an execution file of the application.

18. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the step of obtaining application information comprises obtaining the application information from a file separate from the application.

19. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, wherein the step of obtaining application information comprises obtaining the application information by provisionally launching the application.

20. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the step of obtaining application information comprises obtaining the application information from the application by using interprocess communication.

21. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising:  
determining whether to provisionally launch the application or to normally launch the application according to a request; and  
providing the application information to an application information obtaining part in the image forming apparatus if the application is provisionally launched.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:  
storing the application information in a storage in the image forming apparatus.

23. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 22, wherein the step of  
storing the application information in the storage comprises storing the application  
information in the storage that is at least one of a hard disk, a nonvolatile memory and a  
memory card, and

the step of obtaining application information comprises obtaining the application  
information by reading information stored in the storage.

24. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the step of  
obtaining application information comprises obtaining the application information that  
includes a product ID that is specific to the application.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein the step of  
obtaining application information comprises obtaining the application information that  
further includes at least one of a vendor name, an application name, version information and  
resource information.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 24, further comprising:  
storing product IDs of installable applications in a storage,  
wherein the step of determining whether the application is installable comprises  
determining whether a target application is installable by checking whether a product ID of  
the target application is stored.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium having embedded therein instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method for installing applications in an image forming apparatus including hardware resources used for image formation, an application for performing processes on the image formation, and a platform that exists between the application and the hardware resources, the platform including an OS and at least one control service to control an execution of each requested processing of the hardware resources according to a function call from the application, wherein interprocess communication is performed between the control service and the application, and a new application that performs interprocess communication with the control service in the same way as the application can be installed in the image forming apparatus, comprising:

obtaining, from the new application, application information of the new application that includes information indicating whether [[an]] the new application is installable in the image forming apparatus; and

determining whether the new application is installable in the image forming apparatus based on the application information.

29-112. (Cancelled)